



THE CITY OF STARKVILLE
Mayor's Office
CITY HALL, 110 W. MAIN STREET
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

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D. LYNN SPRUILL
Mayor

March 5, 2026

Representative Michael Guest
450 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Starkville to respectfully request your support for \$4.0 million in Federal appropriations under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure Program. This funding will advance critical improvements to Starkville's wastewater collection system, which was authorized under WRDA 2024.

Many sections of the City's wastewater collection infrastructure are more than 60 to 70 years old and far beyond their intended service life. Aging and deteriorated gravity sewer lines, manholes, and pump station components contribute significantly to elevated wet-weather flows during rainfall events, with inflow and infiltration causing spikes high above normal dry-weather conditions. These excessive flows increase the risk of sanitary sewer overflows, threaten public health, and jeopardize compliance with State and Federal environmental regulations.

The proposed project will rehabilitate or replace deteriorated pipes, restore failing manholes, and modernize equipment at priority pump stations. These improvements are essential to reducing inflow and infiltration, preventing overflows, protecting local waterways, and enhancing system reliability for residents, businesses, and institutions, particularly during severe weather. Modernization will also reduce maintenance burdens, extend the useful life of critical infrastructure, and improve operational efficiency.

The requested \$4.0 million will fund the first phase of rehabilitation in the City's most urgent areas, building upon recent system condition assessments and forming the foundation for future improvements. Federal investment at this stage will help Starkville proactively address long-standing deficiencies, safeguard public health, and support sustainable community growth.

Starkville's wastewater collection rehabilitation is both fiscally responsible and environmentally sound. Much of our system is decades beyond its design life, resulting in expensive emergency repairs, increased operational challenges, and elevated risk of environmental violations. By investing now, the Federal government can help reduce long-term costs to both local and Federal taxpayers, promote regulatory compliance, and strengthen infrastructure resilience.

www.cityofstarkville.org

This initiative directly aligns with the intent of WRDA Section 219, which supports essential water and wastewater improvements in communities facing substantial infrastructure needs.

On behalf of the City of Starkville, I appreciate your ongoing support for infrastructure improvements across Mississippi and respectfully request your consideration of this appropriation request. These investments are essential to protecting our environment, strengthening public health, and securing Starkville's economic future.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to the well-being of our region. We stand ready to provide any additional information your office may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Spruill", with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. Lynn Spruill
Mayor
City of Starkville



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY®

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S. House of Representatives
450 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for City of Starkville's Section 219 Request

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of Mississippi State University, I am writing to express our full support for the City of Starkville's proposed wastewater rehabilitation project. We understand that the city received a \$6 million authorization through the 2024 Water Resource Development Act and is now seeking \$4 million in appropriations through the Section 219 program. As the city and our university continue to grow, these federal investments remain essential to maintaining and improving infrastructure utilized by local residents as well as our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and many visitors.

This initiative will address critical needs within the city's collection system by rehabilitating or replacing deteriorated gravity sewer lines, restoring failing manholes, and upgrading equipment at key pump stations. These improvements are vital to reducing excessive inflow and infiltration, preventing sanitary sewer overflows, and protecting local waterways. They will also help ensure ongoing compliance with State and Federal environmental regulations. Modernizing this infrastructure will lower long-term maintenance costs, extend the service life of essential systems, and enhance reliability for residents, businesses, and institutions—particularly during periods of severe weather.

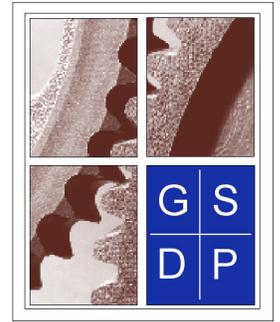
Securing these fund will enable the city to continue its focus on serving and supporting our local community and our university for decades to come. I appreciate your consideration of the city's Section 219 request. I am also grateful for your leadership to our state and nation and to Mississippi State University, as well. Thank you for all you do for us.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Keenum
President

Office of the President

4000 Lee Hall • P. O. Box 6018 • Mississippi State, MS 39762-6018 • Phone: 662-325-3221 • president@msstate.edu



OKTIBBEHA
COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: City of Starkville WRDA Section 219 Appropriations Request

As President of the Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority (OCEDA), I am writing in full support of the City of Starkville's request for four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in funding to advance critical upgrades to its wastewater treatment system. This serves the City of Starkville, Mississippi State University and portions of Oktibbeha County, and the wastewater treatment system improvements are essential to the continued health, growth, and prosperity of our region.

OCEDA recognizes that a reliable, compliant, and well-functioning wastewater treatment system is not only vital for existing residential, commercial, and institutional users – it is also foundational to economic development. Without adequate infrastructure, the growth and investment our organization works diligently to foster will be significantly limited. The ability to support new industry, expand business operations, and accommodate population growth is directly tied to the capacity and resilience of core public utilities.

OCEDA's mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Oktibbeha County and the City of Starkville by promoting job creation and encouraging private investment. To sustain this progress, we must ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with projected demands. At present, the wastewater system cannot confidently support future development without additional assistance through the USACE WRDA Section 219 program.

Appropriations under the USACE Section 219 program will allow the City to advance these necessary system-wide improvements in a timely manner, enabling the region, which is already experiencing strong demand, to fully realize its economic potential.

The OCEDA leadership team sincerely appreciates the work you and your staff have undertaken to support our region and we hope that the clearly documented needs outlined by the City of Starkville will justify the importance of this project. These improvements are not only necessary for environmental protection and regulatory compliance; they are fundamental to long-term economic growth and community well-being.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Spruill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

D. Lynn Spruill
OCEDA Board President
Mayor, City of Starkville

A MEMBER OF THE
G R E A T E R
STARKVILLE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP

200 EAST MAIN STREET, STARKVILLE, MS 39759 PH: 662.323.3322 FAX: 662.323.5815

www.starkville.org

March 5, 2026

Mayor Lynn Spruill
City of Starkville
110 West Main Street
Starkville, MS 39759

RE: Support for Section 219 Request – Wastewater Rehabilitation Project

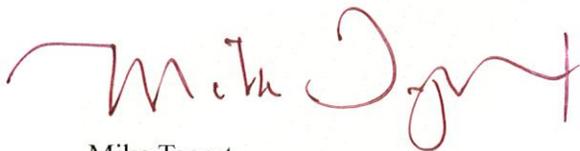
Dear Mayor Spruill,

On behalf of the Starkville Partnership, I am pleased to support your efforts in obtaining funds for the City of Starkville's proposed wastewater rehabilitation project. As the organization charged with community development in Starkville and Oktibbeha County, we understand how essential reliable infrastructure is to sustaining growth and a thriving community. The improvements outlined in this project address critical needs within the city's wastewater system. These upgrades will help reduce inflow and infiltration, prevent sanitary sewer overflows, and protect the environment.

A modern and dependable utility systems is foundational to Starkville's continued growth. Investments like this safeguard public health while strengthening our ability to attract new businesses, support existing employers, and accommodate residential development. For companies evaluating potential locations, reliable infrastructure is a decisive factor, and this project will help ensure Starkville remains well-positioned for future economic opportunity. As Starkville continues to grow, federal investments of this nature are essential to maintaining the infrastructure capacity needed to support that growth and sustain the economic momentum our community is experiencing.

The Starkville Partnership fully supports your request and appreciates your leadership in advancing the long-term needs of our community. Thank you and please let me know if we can provide additional support for the effort.

Sincerely,



Mike Tagert
President & CEO